

REMARKS

In the present application, claims 10-20 and 24-33 are pending and claims 10-16 have been withdrawn from consideration.

In the outstanding final Office action dated September 30, 2005, claims 17, 18 and 20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Whitehouse et al. (4,743,265) and claims 24-26 appear to also have been rejected under § 102(b) in view of Whitehouse et al. Additionally, claim 19 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Whitehouse et al. in view of Hakky et al. (6,113,577); claims 29-33 were rejected under § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Whitehouse et al. in view of Burgermeister as applied to claims 27 and 28 and further in view of Gellman et al. (2002/0055748); and claims 27 and 28 were rejected under § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Whitehouse et al. in view of Burgermeister (2004/0193205).

It is respectfully submitted, however, that the cited art does not teach the subject matter recited in independent claim 17 and its dependent claims 18-20 and 24-33. Significantly, independent claim 17 recites a catheter handle secured to a catheter and a platform removably secured to the catheter handle. Notably, the Whitehouse et al. reference does not teach this structure since the disclosed handles (14, 16) of Whitehouse et al. are not secured to structure the Examiner has characterized as catheter (18, 20), and the disclosed base (12) is not removably secured to the handles (14, 16). Rather, the base (12) of Whitehouse et al. is used as a stabilizer and permits the handles (14, 16) to rotate with respect thereto. Additionally, member (20) is actually threaded through the base (12) and is not secured to the handles (14, 16) since it is independently placed within vasculature and thereafter split by the handles (14, 16) to disjoin it from the catheter (18) (See column 6, lines 9 et seq.). The Applicants also believe it is

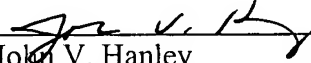
noteworthy that reference numeral 18 of Whitehouse et al. is actually a needle and as such arguably does not form part of a catheter or for that matter, structure required by the claims. Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that independent claim 17 as well as dependent claims 18-20 and 24-33 define patentable subject matter.

CONCLUSION

Applicants have attempted to completely respond to the rejections set forth in the outstanding Office action. In view of the above remarks, Applicants respectfully request that the application be reconsidered, the claims allowed and the application passed to issue.

Respectfully submitted,

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